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COUNTRY Yugoslavia
SUBJECT Status and Future Prospects for Physiology in YugoslaviaPLACE ACQUIRED
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1. The history of Physiology in Yugoslavia begins with the foundation of medical schools shortly after World War I in Belgrade, Zagreb and Ljubljana. Immediately after World War II, the medical facilities of Sarajevo and Skoplje came to these schools. The newly founded Departments of Physiology, Physiological Chemistry and Pharmacology were first to serve in the education of medical men. Large numbers of students had to be taught by a sometimes quite insufficient teaching staff and there were inadequacies in classrooms, apparatus and textbooks. Most of the time had to be devoted to the fundamentals of teaching, so research work was pushed aside. Nevertheless, in a comparatively short time, scientific work was organized. Better conditions prevailed in some laboratories in the faculties of sciences, as in the Physiological Institute in Belgrade (I Gjaja) and the Institute for Plant Physiology in Zagreb (V Vouk).
2. It was not surprising that the first professors of Physiology were invited from other Slav countries (R Burian, F Smetanka and E Kinsky). They were the founders of the teaching institutes but not of the schools of physiological research. The younger generation of teachers went to the well known laboratories of Western Europe and the US to complete their studies. As a consequence, our scientific outlook was influenced by the Czech, German, French, UK and the US schools of thought. The USSR, at that time, was favored and admired by the younger generation but remained forbidden land until 1945. After 1945, the younger physiologists visited the USSR, but on the whole, Soviet influences on our physiology are not conspicuous.
3. In our now socialist state, the physiological sciences have a much greater importance. Heretofore, they were looked at from a more academic point of view.

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They are now regarded as the basic natural sciences of the whole living world. In addition, much more popular interest in new results in physiological research can be noted from inspection of newspapers and popular magazines on natural sciences. This public understanding provides a pleasant atmosphere for promoting work in physiology. There are no restrictions or laws regarding animal experiments. Above all, there are no political or mental restrictions to impede, nor is there any government control of the direction of research and scientific thought.

4. Teaching facilities are sufficient in a number of institutes which pertain to medicine, biology, physical education and psychology. Usually the medical schools add a year of pathological physiology to the course in elementary physiology. Physiological chemistry or biochemistry for medical students is given as a separate course. Much emphasis is laid upon the practical work in both courses. Students are also encouraged to report in seminar on their laboratory work and special reading. They are also requested to arrange special discussions.
5. Research facilities are available in all schools. Unfortunately, large classes occupy almost the whole time of the staff so that little time remains for scientific work. At the Academies of Sciences in Belgrade and Zagreb, special institutes have been established for research in the physiology of exercise, in nutrition, in pathological physiology, in biochemistry and also in many branches of applied physiology in agriculture and technology. Hospital laboratories and some industrial laboratories are of special applied character. By necessity, biochemical departments are separate. Nevertheless, contact with physiology remains very close.
6. The task of organizing new departments in such a short time confined our scientific workers to their laboratories. Only recently has there been a more vivid intercourse between the five centers; Belgrade, Zagreb, Ljubljana, Sarajevo and Skoplje. A Physiology Society has been planned but has not yet been founded. Regular meetings of all workers in physiology and related sciences should promote and stimulate research. In the meantime, our physiologists meet occasionally at congresses and also plan discussions on medical, biological, economical and educational topics. We have no separate journal of physiology. Papers are published in various editions of the academies, in medical and biological journals, and abroad. The Bulletin Scientifique, published by the Academic Council in Belgrade, gives information on current work. The younger generation, now growing up in the more favorable homogenous conditions of the federated republic, will soon settle all these problems.
7. In the future, we can look forward to a generation of young scientists who are well trained in the basic natural sciences and who have a good knowledge of foreign languages. Teaching institutions will have ample time for research owing to a greater restriction of the number of students. They will also find better opportunities for specialized studies abroad. Laboratory equipment can now be provided by our own industries. Where necessary, the erection of new buildings is only a question of time. Modern well equipped institutes for research in chemistry, physics and biology will give our physiology the necessary solid backbone. A grave impediment still is and will continue to be for some years, the lack of literature, books and journals. Even this should be mastered by application of economy and an efficient reporting service.

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